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10/021,521	10/29/2001	Gary Robin Maze	BS-0001	8628

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EXAMINER

LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding:

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/021,521

Applicant(s)

MAZE ET AL.

Examiner

Etienne P LeRoux

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claims Status

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 are rejected as detailed below.

Specification

The specification is objected to because the section Brief Summary of the Invention has been omitted. Correction per the following is required

Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because Figures 3-7 are not legible. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.81 applicant is given 2(two) months to submit corrected drawings to avoid abandonment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 16 recites the following limitations which are not enabled in the specification such that a skilled artisan can make and use the invention:

receiving a notice of addition of new raw data

processing the user taxonomy table for keywords

examining the keywords associated with each of the predetermined elements

generating a relevance factor

suggesting the new raw data to the user

Claim 17 recites the following limitations which are not enabled in the specification such that a skilled artisan can make and use the invention:

analyzing the query for keywords

searching for keywords against the tables using the filtering input

Claim 18 recites the following limitations which are not enabled in the specification such that a skilled artisan can make and use the invention:

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allowing the user to continue the search outside the tables when the number of search results occurs below a predetermined threshold

allowing the user to continue the search outside the tables on a user initiated command

Claim 19 recites the following limitations which are not enabled in the specification such that a skilled artisan can make and use the invention:

the filtering comprises at least one of limiting searches to a selected element of the taxonomy

Claim 20 recites the following limitations which are not enabled in the specification such that a skilled artisan can make and use the invention:

wherein a user viewing a summary table element may be allowed to view the raw data

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat No 6,526,399 issued to Coulson et al (hereafter Coulson).

Claims 1 and 12:

Coulson discloses:

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- a. a server [Fig 1, remote computer 49, col 7, lines 10-20] comprising a searchable authority table [raw ungrouped database, abstract, col 1, line 60 – col 2, line 8]
- b. a data communications device [Fig 1, LAN 51] operatively in communication with the server;
- c. a user computer [Fig 1, personal computer 20, col 5, line 65 through col 6, line 5] operatively in communication with the data communications device, the user computer having access to the searchable authority table, the user computer further comprising:
 - i. at least one user definable taxonomy table, wherein the taxonomy table: (1) is accessible to the user computer; and (2) is manipulatable by a user with adequate access permission to manipulate the user taxonomy table [metacell, abstract]
 - ii. at least one searchable summary table [summary result, abstract] wherein the summary table: (1) is accessible to the user computer; (2) is related to the authority table and the user taxonomy table; and (3) is manageable by a user with adequate access permission to manage the summary table;
- d. software [Fig 1, 49] executable in the server to provide access to and management of the authority table;
- e. software executable [Fig 1, 20] in the user computer to provide access to and manipulation of the taxonomy table and the summary table.

Claim 2:

Coulson discloses wherein manipulation of the taxonomy table comprises creating, modifying, associating elements in the taxonomy table with other elements in the taxonomy table

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for dynamic alternate presentation, rearranging, and deleting elements of the user taxonomy table. Price discloses associating elements in the taxonomy table with other elements in the taxonomy table for dynamic alternate presentation, rearranging, and deleting elements of the user taxonomy table [abstract]

Claim 3:

Coulson discloses wherein management of the summarization table comprises creating, modifying, and deleting elements of the summary table [abstract]

Claim 4:

Coulson discloses wherein the user computer has access to a plurality of searchable raw data via the data communications device [abstract]

Claim 5:

Coulson discloses wherein the authority table comprises descriptions of at least one of legal data, medical data, educational data, manufacturing data, scientific data, repair data, audiovisual data, and entertainment data [col 8, lines 1-10]

Claim 6:

Coulson discloses wherein the server further comprises a database comprising the authority table [abstract and Fig 49]

Claim 7:

Coulson discloses a data network accessible to the server and the user computer via the data communications device; and b. query software executing at least partially in the server; c. whereby computers with access to the data network may be allowed to access predetermined portions of the authority table [abstract]

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Claim 8:

Coulson discloses the Internet [col 7, lines 23-35]

Claim 9:

Coulson discloses the data network comprises the Internet; b. the user computer uses Internet browsing software executable at the user computer to access the predetermined portions of the database; and c. the server is an Internet service provider; d. wherein the user computer further has access to a plurality of searchable raw data via the Internet [abstract and col 7, lines 23-35]

Claim 10:

Coulson discloses wherein a user is allowed to submit a query to the query software via the Internet [abstract, col 7, lines 23-35]

Claim 11:

Coulson discloses a user interface to the system comprising at least one of an HTML user interface, a non-database language user interface, and a database language interface [col 3, lines 40-55]

Claims 13-15:

Coulson discloses wherein step (a) further comprises: i. parsing the raw data prior to storing the captured raw data in the authority table; ii. generating keywords from the parsed raw data; iii. saving the keywords in a keyword table associated with the authority table; and iv. storing the raw data description in the authority table [abstract, common data entry reads on keyword]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coulson in view of Pub No 2003/0131007 issued to Schirmer et al (hereafter Schirmer), as best examiner is able to ascertain.

Claim 16:

Coulson discloses the elements of claim 12 as noted above but does not disclose a. receiving a notice of addition of new raw data to the authority table at the user computer; b. receiving keywords associated with the new raw data at the user computer; c. processing the user taxonomy table for keywords associated with one or more predetermined elements of the user

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taxonomy table for keywords associated with each of those predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table; d. examining the keywords associated with each of the predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table against the keywords received associated with the new raw data; e. generating a relevance factor for the new raw data based on the examination; and f. suggesting the new raw data to the user as relevant for each of the predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table where the relevance factor is at a predetermined threshold level in each of the predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table. Schirmer discloses if the context filtering reveals that person X has a 50% relevance association with topic A and an 85% association with topic B, the user can draw inferences regarding person X's specialty or professional focus to permit the user to establish a threshold that stipulates the minimum value required for a relationship [paragraph 83]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Coulson to include a. receiving a notice of addition of new raw data to the authority table at the user computer; b. receiving keywords associated with the new raw data at the user computer; c. processing the user taxonomy table for keywords associated with one or more predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table for keywords associated with each of those predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table; d. examining the keywords associated with each of the predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table against the keywords received associated with the new raw data; e. generating a relevance factor for the new raw data based on the examination; and f. suggesting the new raw data to the user as relevant for each of the predetermined elements of the user taxonomy table where the relevance factor is at a predetermined threshold level in each of the predetermined elements of the user

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taxonomy table as taught by Schirmer for the purpose of to recognize and identify new relationships between data items [paragraph 83].

Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coulson in view of US Pat No 6,571,239 issued to Cole et al (hereafter Cole), as best examiner is able to ascertain.

Claim 17:

Coulson discloses the elements of claim 1 as noted above but does not disclose a. formulating a query at a user workstation; b. analyzing the query for keywords; c. obtaining user filtering input for tables to be searched; d. searching for keywords against the tables using the user filtering input; and e. returning search results to the user. Cole discloses storing all queries in a user session, analyzing at least one of the queries into keywords (or combinations of query words) matching the at least one query word with the index key-words and determining the at least one particular data object based on the result of the step of matching [col 5, lines 40-47]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Coulson to include a. formulating a query at a user workstation; b. analyzing the query for keywords; c. obtaining user filtering input for tables to be searched; d. searching for keywords against the tables using the user filtering input; and e. returning search results to the user based on the teachings of Cole for the purpose of determining keywords and matching the search results to the keyword[s] [col 5, lines 40-47].

Claim 20:

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The combination of Coulson and Cole discloses the elements of claim 1 and 17 as noted above and furthermore discloses wherein a user viewing a summary table element may be allowed to view the raw data from which that summary was derived, the allowing comprising at least one of selecting a region on a display at the user computer in which the summary is being displayed, selecting a command button on the display, and using one or more keys on a keyboard associated with the user computer [Coulson, abstract]

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Coulson and Cole and further in view of Pub No US 2002/0165856 issued to Gilfillan et al (hereafter Gilfillan), as best examiner is able to ascertain.

Claim 18:

The combination of Coulson and Cole discloses the elements of claims 1 and 17 as noted above but does not disclose allowing the user to continue the search outside the tables when the number of search results occurs below a predetermined threshold and allowing the user to continue the search outside the tables on a user initiated command. Gilfillan discloses that search results are not presented to a user if the search results fall below a minimum threshold [paragraph 56]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Coulson and Cole to include allowing the user to continue the search outside the tables when the number of search results occurs below a predetermined threshold and allowing the user to continue the search outside the tables on a user initiated command based on the teachings of Gilfillan for the purpose of finding search results that agree with the keyword(s) used in the query.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Coulson and Cole and further in view of US Pat No 6,728,696 issued to Walton.

Claim 19:

The combination of Coulson and Cole discloses the elements of claims 1 and 17 as noted above but does not disclose wherein the filtering input comprises at least one of limiting searches to a selected element of the taxonomy, limiting searches to a plurality of selected elements of the taxonomy, limiting searches to all elements of the taxonomy, limiting searches based on fields present for an authority table element, and limiting searches based on fields present for a summary table element. Walton discloses limiting searches to a category table [claim 1]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination Coulson and Cole to include wherein the filtering input comprises at least one of limiting searches to a selected element of the taxonomy, limiting searches to a plurality of selected elements of the taxonomy, limiting searches to all elements of the taxonomy, limiting searches based on fields present for an authority table element, and limiting searches based on fields present for a summary table element based on the teachings of Walton for the purpose of searching a particular table for results listed in the table.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US Pat No 6,442,526, System For Corporate Travel Planning and Management to

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Vance et al discloses a raw data table and a plurality of user-modifiable category tables and a plurality of summary tables.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/31/2006 have been fully considered and are partially persuasive but are now moot based on above new grounds of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Patent related correspondence can be forwarded via the following FAX number (571) 273-8300.

Etienne LeRoux

5/18/2006

In view of the appeal brief filed on 3/31/2006, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth as above.

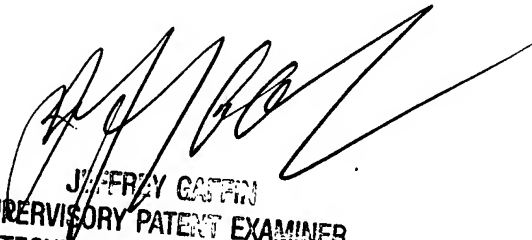
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To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:



JEFFREY CASTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100